

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY OF ALBERT LEA
Monday, January 27, 2014, 7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Rasmussen Jr., Councilors John Schulte V, Larry Baker, George Marin, Reid Olson, Larry Anderson and Al Brooks. Also present was City Manager Chad Adams, City Engineer Steven Jahnke and City Clerk Shirley Slater-Schulte.

CEREMONIAL

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Harold Kamrath, 326 Glenn Road, addressed the City Council regarding:

- Incorrect amounts charged for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 & 2013 for Parking Maintenance Assessments for his downtown parcel, and stated he was charged for a parcel that he does not own.
- Requested monies back for past years.
- Requested a correction to the assessment.
- Requested 1st Ward and 5th Ward councilmembers to support this request.

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. stated that it is the practice and policy of the City of Albert Lea, that once the books are closed, those transactions are final. At this time, the City has offered to refund the two years that are still open.

Mr. Kamrath stated that he has been protesting these assessments for the past five years.

City Manager Adams noted that he had talked with Mr. Kamrath about this issue several times. He also explained that the City is obligated to give Mr. Kamrath any public information that the City has, and which staff has been more than willing to do. Mr. Adams further noted that the City is under no obligation to provide research, quantitative analysis or analytics per State Statute. At this time, the City has offered a refund for the two years that are still open.

CONSENT AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A. Approve Minutes Of The January 13, 2014 Regular Council Meeting
- B. Approve Minutes Of The January 9, 2014 Work Session
- C. Authorization To Post No Parking Signage On Quisley Street
- D. Approve Acquisition Of Groundskeeper Mowing Unit

MOTION: I will move to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion made by Councilor Baker, seconded by Councilor Marin. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Baker, Marin, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

PETITIONS-REQUESTS-COMMUNICATIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PRESENTATION OF ALLIANT ENERGY REBATE CHECK – REBECCA GISEL

Rebecca Gisel presented an Alliant Energy Rebate check to the City of Albert Lea totaling \$30,367.66. The rebate check is for replacement of low efficiency T12 lighting with T-8 florescent lighting, as well as replacing the exit fixtures with higher efficiency LED fixtures at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project cost that the city staff provided was \$45,061. The Custom Rebate Program provides a cash incentive of your first year energy savings, which amount to approximately 206,827 KWH and 70 KW. The rebate for the sliding project will be \$29,847.66 which is over 65% of the project cost. The city also submitted a prescriptive rebate for the LED lighting installed on Broadway, rebate for the LED exterior lighting is an additional \$520.00. Alliant Energy will continue to work with city staff in 2014 to provide additional rebates for energy efficient equipment that is installed.

Mayor Rasmussen Jr., thanked Alliant Energy for being a community partner.

RESOLUTION 14-12 ACCEPTING BROADWAY AVENUE STREETScape PROJECT BENCH GRANT - ALLIANT ENERGY FOUNDATION

Rebecca Gisel representing the Alliant Energy Foundation presented a check in the amount of \$5,250.00 to the City of Albert Lea for the purchase of additional downtown benches. The request was for iron benches that would fit the historic character of the downtown area. Staff recommends acceptance of the donation.

MOTION: Move to approve this resolution as presented.

Motion made by Councilor Anderson, seconded by Councilor Schulte V. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Baker, Marin, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 14-12
included with these minutes)

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING AND RESOLUTION 14-13 VACATING A PORTION OF CROSSROADS BOULEVARD AND EASEMENT

City Manager Adams explained that the City of Albert Lea received a petition from an abutting property owner to vacate a portion of Crossroads Boulevard along with the 10 foot wide utility easement along the northerly side. All property abutting the proposed segment of roadway to be vacated is owned by the petitioner. Crossroads Boulevard currently terminates within the proposed segment of roadway to be vacated and City staff does not find there to be a public need for this section of roadway or the easement area. At their meeting of January 7, 2014, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the request. Staff also recommends approval.

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. opened the public hearing.

Mr. Harold Kamrath, 326 Glenn Road, inquired about the cost to taxpayers. City staff stated that there will be no cost to the taxpayer and there may be some cost savings to the taxpayer.

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. called three times and then closed the public hearing.

Motion made by Councilor Brooks, seconded by Councilor Marin. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Baker, Marin, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 14-13
included with these minutes)

MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

First Ward, Councilor Schulte V reported:

- Ward Items – none
- Committee update – none

Second Ward, Councilor Baker reported:

- Ward Items – none
- Committee update – Attended Blazing Star Landing meeting and annual Council retreat

Third Ward, Councilor Marin reported:

- Ward Items – none
- Committee update – Thanked Public Safety, Salvation Army, Fire Dept., Street Dept. and Armory for all of their help during the winter storms.

Fourth Ward, Councilor Olson reported:

- Ward Items - none
- Committee updates - Park & Rec meeting updates

Fifth Ward, Councilor Anderson reported:

- Ward Items - none
- Committee updates - Reminded people to be careful during the cold weather.

Sixth Ward, Councilor Brooks reported

- Ward Items - none
- Committee updates - none

Mayor Rasmussen Jr. reported the following:

- Attended League of Freeborn County Cities meeting
- Demonstration/education on the handling of a Fire Extinguisher, willing to show this at any group or organization meeting
- Annual City and Department Head Retreats, reviewed goals and accomplishments, appreciates all of the time spent

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Adams reviewed the following achievements as follows:

2013 Highlights – Community Development

- Broadway Ridge Renewal Grant Program
 - 2 Façade Renovations, 10 Back Door Matching Grants
- Freeborn Bank – RFP and Developer Roundtable
- National Vitality Center and Lease Agreement
- 25 Land Use Applications
- Traffic Signal on Bridge Avenue/Sykes
- Ordinances-
 - Established Diversified Central District
 - Outdoor Seating
 - Interim Use Permit
 - Sign Ordinance – Added Dynamic Signage to Downtown Historic District

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2013 Work Plan Goals

- State of City Address
- Organizational Development – Ideal Culture training
- Special Event Permitting (43 issued)
- Local Government Innovation Award received for Process Improvement Team (PIT Crews)
- Additions to Policy and Procedure Manual
- Broadway Avenue Streetscape Project
- Executive Summary published with key findings from (7) Focus Groups and Public Forum regarding the redevelopment of Freeborn Bank building and revitalization of downtown
- Neighborhood Picnics
- 2nd Annual Open Streets Event
- Involvement in community and promoting positive achievements

2014-15 TENTATIVE GOALS (City Manager)

- Complete employee compensation/benefits and satisfaction survey
- Increase Tax Base
- Community Center
- Blazing Star Landing
- Downtown Parking District
- Downtown Revitalization (Rehab grants, incubator, WiFi hot spots, Main Street program, Chamber/CVB/ALEDA offices relocated to downtown)
- Joint Meeting with ALEDA/Council
- Complete community wide strategic plan
- Community survey (spring 2015)
- Facilities Master Plan
- Staff/Organizational Development
- Freeborn Bank Building
- Market Rate Rental Housing
- City Wish List
- Entrepreneur Program (Blandin/ALEDA/Riverland)
- Management Intern or PT temporary worker

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS

RESOLUTION 14-14 APPROVING CONTRACT WITH COUNCILMEMBER SCHULTE V

City Manager stated that the attached resolution directs the Mayor and City Clerk to make payment in the amount of \$4,150.00 on behalf of the City for a claim from Jones, Haugh & Smith, Inc., and to issue payment for filing the affidavit of official interest by the interested official, Councilmember John Schulte V.

Motion made by Councilor Marin to adopt this resolution, seconded by Councilor Anderson. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Baker, Marin, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed. Councilor Schulte V abstained.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 14-14
included with these minutes)

RESOLUTION 14-15 APPROVING CLAIMS

City Manager Adams noted in the staff report that the attached resolution directs the Mayor and City Clerk to issue the payment of claims as presented in the Detail of Claims report.

Motion made by Councilor Brooks to approve payment of claims as presented for checks #51452 through #51585 in the amount of \$2,504,514.27; seconded by Councilor Baker. On roll call vote, the following councilors voted in favor of said motion: Councilors Schulte V, Baker, Marin, Olson, Anderson, Brooks and Mayor Rasmussen Jr. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed.

(See Secretary's Original Resolution 14-15
included with these minutes)

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Anderson moved and Councilor Brooks seconded that there being no further business, the council meeting be adjourned at 7:35 p.m. until the next regular meeting of the Albert Lea City Council at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, February 10, 2014. On roll call vote, all councilors voted in favor of said motion. Mayor Rasmussen Jr. declared the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Mayor Vern Rasmussen, Jr.

Filed and attested this 28th day of January, 2014

Secretary to the Council